

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 3, line 2 after "disposed" delete --through--.

5. A pond cover comprising:
 - a plurality of panels; and
 - means for linking and de-linking the panels comprising openings defined in the panels and [means for] substantially oval-shaped loops interconnecting the adjacent panels through adjacent openings in the panels [with a loop].
17. The pond cover of claim [13] 5 wherein the means for [interconnecting] linking and delinking comprises:
 - at least one fastener inserted through at least one opening; and
 - means for securing a portion of the fastener in [a] one loop.
28. A method of manipulating a pond cover comprising the steps of:
 - forming a plurality of panels defining openings;

linking adjacent panels through adjacent openings with at least one loop,
the loop being substantially oval-shaped ; and
de-linking the plurality of panels.

Claim 37, line 1, delete "36", insert --28--.

Claim 37, line 1, delete "defining", insert --forming--.

Claim 38, line 1 delete "36", insert --28--.

Claim 38, line 1, delete "defining", insert --forming--.

Claim 39, line 1, delete "36", insert --28--.

40. The method of claim [36] 28 wherein the step of [interconnecting] forming a loop further comprises the step of:

inserting a cable through at least one loop forming at least one fastener;

[inserting at least one fastener through at least one opening].

Claim 41, line 1, delete "interconnecting" insert --forming a loop--.

REMARKS

This amendment is a revision/replacement of the Amendment filed on December 18, 1998 and is responsive to the Office Communication mailed April 1, 1999. This is further responsive to the outstanding Office Action issued September 18, 1998 in which